

HEALTH
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BURNLEY JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

ANNUAL REPORT

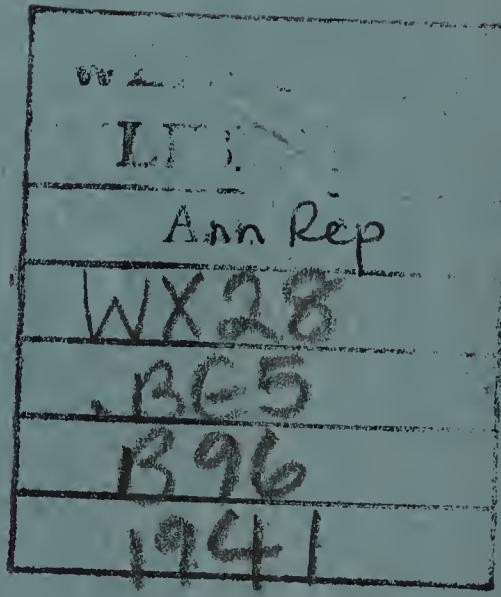
OF THE

Medical Superintendent

For the Year ended 31st December, 1941.

D. C. LAMONT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Superintendent.



22501684184

Burnley Joint Hospital Board.

DECEMBER, 1941.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BURNLEY CORPORATION :—

- † Mrs. Marie Brown, J.P.
- Mrs. Beatrice Maud Clitheroe.
- Mr. John Thomas Clegg.
- Mr. Arthur Green, J.P.
- Mr. Harold Massey.
- Mr. Lawrence Rippon.
- * Mr. James Alfred Sampson, J.P.
- † * Mr. Thomas Park Taylor (Chairman).

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COLNE CORPORATION :—

- * Mr. Arthur Burrell, J.P.
- Mr. Edwin Tye, C.C.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NELSON CORPORATION :—

- † * Mr. Richard Bland (Vice-Chairman).
- Mr. Henry Haythornthwaite.
- * Mr. Joseph Wilfred Throup.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL :—

- † Mr. William Alderson, C.C.
- Mr. Joseph Buck Hodgkins.

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BARROWFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL :—

- * Mrs. Beatrice Hindley, J.P.

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BRIEFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL :—

- Mr. Arthur Heap.

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PADIHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL :—

- † Mr. Ernest Wiggins.

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TRAWDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL :—

- † Mr. John William Barrett, J.P.

* Staffing Sub-Committee.

† Extensions Sub-Committee.

MEDICAL AND NURSING STAFF.

Medical Superintendent:

D. C. LAMONT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Medical Officer of Health, Burnley C.B.C.).

Resident Medical Officer:

G. GEMMILL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Burnley C.B.C.).

Consulting Ophthalmologist:

K. R. BROWN, M.B., D.O.M.S., D.O.

Consulting Surgeon and Gynæcologist:

A. CALLAM, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

Matron:

MISS D. ANNAKIN, S.R.N. (Gen.), Fever Certificate, S.C.M.

Nursing Staff:

4 Sisters, 9 Staff Nurses, 2 Assistant Nurses and 14 Probationers.

OTHER STAFF.

Clerk to the Board:

MR. ARCHIBALD GLEN (Town Clerk, Burnley).

Surveyor to the Board:

MR. F. V. ALEXANDER, A.M.I.C.E., M.Inst. M. Cy.E. (Borough Surveyor, Nelson).

Treasurer to the Board:

MR. G. CATTON, F.I.M.T.A., A.S.A.A. (Borough Treasurer, Colne).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

ST. JAMES'S STREET,

BURNLEY,

July, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members,

Burnley Joint Hospital Board.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Report on the work carried out at your Infectious Diseases Hospitals at Marsden Road, Burnley, and Crown Point, during the year 1941.

Much of the Report has been compiled by Dr. G. Gemmill and Miss Dawe, whose helpful co-operation throughout the year I desire to acknowledge.

Thanks are due to the Matron, Nursing, Domestic and Outdoor Staff for the loyal manner in which they have carried out their duties during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

D. C. LAMONT,

Medical Superintendent.

REPORT.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

ADMISSIONS.—During 1941, the total admissions were 829, this number being the second highest in any year since the hospital was opened 43 years ago. The annual admissions and average number of beds occupied during the last four years were:

| | Admissions. | Average No. of Beds Occupied. | Average Duration of Stay in Hospital (Days). |
|------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1938 | 420 | 42.2 | 37.1 |
| 1939 | 322 | 28.0 | 28.0 |
| 1940 | 563 | 40.9 | 30.3 |
| 1941 | 829 | 65.4 | 28.6 |

The average number of beds occupied by cases of scarlet fever was 30.8 and by cases of diphtheria 20.5. Scarlet fever and diphtheria, including carriers, together accounted for 49 per cent. of the admissions.

Including 78 cases which were in hospital at the beginning of the year, 907 cases were under treatment during 1941. This is 317 more than in 1940 and nearly three times the number admitted during 1939. Twenty-one different infectious diseases, apart from a number of a non-infectious nature, were dealt with.

Fifty-four per cent. of the admissions were from Burnley County Borough, 10.3 per cent. from Colne, 10 per cent from Nelson, 6 per cent. from Brierfield, 5 per cent. from Burnley Rural District and 3 per cent. from Padiham. Fourteen cases came from Trawden, five from Barrowford, 20 from areas which are not constituent members of the Board and 15 were men serving in the Forces. Of the total admissions, 76 (or 9 per cent.) were evacuees, and of these 71 were residing temporarily in the area of the Board.

The hospital was busy fairly uniformly throughout the year. The lowest number of admissions was in April, when only 38 cases were admitted, but prior to that month and in the subsequent months the admissions generally averaged two or more per day; in November 93 cases were received. Scarlet fever was more prevalent during the last four months of the year.

SCARLET FEVER.—The number of cases of scarlet fever admitted during the year was 390. This shows an increase of 210 over the previous year, and was due to a sharp rise in the incidence of the disease in all the constituent areas, with the exception of Burnley County Borough where the cases amounted to 161, which was only six more than that of 1940. The

other areas supplied 129 cases as against only 27 in 1940. The largest number came from Colne (77) and the smallest from Trawden (2).

The rate of admission rose in the latter half of the year, the numbers during the second six months being more than double those of the first six months. The peak was reached in November, when 72 new cases were admitted.

The Brierfield outbreak, 45 cases, showed some interesting features. Whereas cases from the remaining area were admitted at a fairly steady rate throughout the year, practically all the Brierfield cases came in during October and November. The sudden flare suggested the introduction of a rather virulent organism in a community with a low level of resistance. Although no typing of streptococci was done, there certainly was clinical evidence indicating that the streptococcus affecting the Brierfield patients was more virulent and of a different strain to that which attacked patients from the other areas.

The Brierfield type of disease was much more severe, with marked toxæmia, and gave rise to frequent complications. Several cases of secondary attacks occurred in the ward at this time among patients other than Brierfield ones, suggesting some "cross-infection." All the Brierfield cases recovered. The main treatment was serum, reinforced with prontosil as required. Large doses of both were required in some cases.

There were two deaths—one from Burnley County Borough and the other from Colne. Both were toxic cases who failed to respond to treatment.

DIPHTHERIA.—Again in 1941, as in the previous year, diphtheria did not appear in severe epidemic form, and although the 102 cases admitted were an increase of 31 over that of 1940, they were considerably less than the admissions during the years 1934 to 1938. In addition, 15 carriers were treated.

Forty-two cases were from Burnley County Borough, 16 from Nelson, 15 from Colne, 10 from Burnley Rural District, 7 from Trawden, three from Padiham, 1 each from Barrowford and Brierfield, and 7 from outside authorities.

All types of Diphtheria were encountered, from very mild to very severe. Serum was given in many cases in large doses, and several cases recovered where hope of recovery was very slight. Adrenalin-in-oil and glucose appeared to be of considerable value in these severe cases. Owing to improved bacteriological methods many convalescent patients continued to be carriers for considerable periods and in some of these tonsillectomy had to be performed before negative swabs were forthcoming.

Of the three deaths from diphtheria, one was a Burnley patient, one from Nelson and one from Brierfield.

The number of cases of diphtheria under treatment annually during the last twenty years are:—

| | | | |
|------------|-----|------------|-----|
| 1922 | 83 | 1932 | 115 |
| 1923 | 75 | 1933 | 191 |
| 1924 | 77 | 1934 | 331 |
| 1925 | 166 | 1935 | 256 |
| 1926 | 188 | 1936 | 304 |
| 1927 | 214 | 1937 | 309 |
| 1928 | 128 | 1938 | 251 |
| 1929 | 133 | 1939 | 115 |
| 1930 | 77 | 1940 | 71 |
| 1931 | 95 | 1941 | 102 |

Average duration of stay in hospital of diphtheria cases:—

| | | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| 1937 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 49 days. |
| 1938 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 44 days. |
| 1939 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 44 days. |
| 1940 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 55 days. |
| 1941 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 63 days. |

OTHER DISEASES.—Fourteen cases of enteric fever were admitted, this number being two more than in the previous year and more than in any of the previous 28 years. Eleven occurred in the area of the Board.

An epidemic of dysentery, which occurred in Burnley in 1940, continued during January, 1941, when 17 cases were admitted. The final case was received in February.

Twenty-seven cases of meningococcal meningitis were admitted, four of whom were members of the Armed Forces. The cases appeared to be sporadic, scattered throughout the year, and no connection was traced between any of the Burnley Borough cases. Three of the Burnley cases and one Colne case died.

A considerable increase in the number of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum occurred in Burnley, and of 10 cases received, nine were from the County Borough.

Whooping cough was more than usually prevalent in Burnley Borough during the summer months, and 25 cases with complications or where the home conditions were not conducive to satisfactory nursing, were admitted. No deaths occurred from whooping cough.

SERVICES OF CONSULTANTS.—The consulting surgeons performed three operations: resection of rib; removal of sequestrum; drainage of abscess. The opinion of the ophthalmologist was obtained in respect of some of the cases of ophthalmia neonatorum. Five tonsillectomy operations and one ear operation were performed by the Resident Surgical Officer of the Municipal General Hospital.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS :—These continued to be made at the Burnley Public Health Laboratory.

| | |
|--|------|
| Nose and throat swabs | 1976 |
| Eye and ear swabs | 29 |
| Examinations of cerebro-spinal fluid | 39 |
| Examinations of faeces and urine | 234 |
| Other examinations | 30 |
| | — |
| | 2308 |
| | — |

OTHER MATTERS.—It is gratifying to report that, following a visit of inspection by a representative of the General Nursing Council on 2nd May, 1941, the hospital was found to conform to the standards required for approval as a training school for Fever Nursing. Provisional approval was received from the General Nursing Council on 23rd May, 1941, for a period of two years or for the duration of the war, whichever proved to be the lesser period.

Full courses of lectures for the preliminary and final fever nursing examinations were immediately commenced, the lectures being given by the Medical Officer, the Matron and the Assistant Matron, who also undertook the part-time duties of sister-tutor, as required by the Council.

Difficulty was again experienced in obtaining suitable staff for the large number of cases, but after the hospital was approved as a training school, there was some improvement in the situation, and four general trained nurses joined the staff for fever training.

The ground ploughed up last year was fully planted with vegetables, and proved a valuable source of fresh foodstuffs for patients and staff. Both gardeners were fully employed and worked hard to make the scheme a success.

The shortage of single rooms (there are only eight) for the treatment of cases other than scarlet fever and diphtheria was difficult to overcome, and there were occasions on which overcrowding with its attendant risks could scarcely be avoided. Largely due to unremitting care and attention in nursing matters, no undesirable sequelae resulted.

Throughout the year opportunity was taken, whenever possible, to improve the efficiency of the hospital by the addition of up-to-date medical and domestic apparatus, and by the incorporation of modern ideas and methods in the treatment and nursing of fevers.

The lack of adequate refrigerator space was keenly felt and gave rise to difficulties in catering. Matters became worse when the present refrigerator broke down and was removed for repair, and the year ended with no such facilities in the hospital.

TOTAL CASES UNDER TREATMENT DURING 1941.
Classified according to Final Diagnosis.

| Disease | Remaining in Hospital at the end of 1940 | Admis- sions | Dis- charges | Deaths | Remaining in Hospital at the end of 1941 | Average stay in Hospital of patients discharged (Days) |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|--------|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever | 23 | 390 | 361 | 2 | 50 | 27.8 |
| Diphtheria | 12 | 102 | 87 | 3 | 24 | 63 |
| Diphtheria Carriers | 3 | 15 | 14 | — | 4 | |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | 14 | 15 | — | — | |
| Dysentery | 10 | 18 | 25 | 3 | — | |
| Enteritis | 10 | 7 | 15 | 2 | — | |
| Erysipelas | 1 | 9 | 10 | — | — | |
| Meningococcal Meningitis | 2 | 27 | 25 | 4 | — | |
| Tuberculous Meningitis | — | 6 | 1 | 5 | — | |
| Diphtheria Carrier and Chickenpox | — | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | |
| Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | |
| Tonsillitis | 4 | 22 | 23 | — | 3 | |
| Vincent's Angina | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | |
| Scarlet Fever & Rubella | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 2 | 7 | 8 | — | 1 | 19.1 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | 10 | 11 | — | — | |
| Pemphigus Neonatorum | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | 25 | 27 | — | — | |
| Measles | — | 38 | 38 | — | — | |
| Rubella | — | 15 | 15 | — | — | |
| Chicken Pox | — | 40 | 32 | — | 8 | |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 15 | 15 | — | 1 | |
| Streptococcal Septicaemia | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | |
| Parotitis | — | 4 | 4 | — | — | |
| Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | |
| Non-Infectious | 3 | 58 | 59 | 1 | 1 | |
| Total..... | 78 | 829 | 794 | 20 | 93 | 28.6 |

TOTAL CASES UNDER TREATMENT DURING 1941.

Classified according to the provisional diagnosis with which they were admitted.

| Disease (Provisional Diagnosis) | Remaining in Hospital at the end of 1940 | Admissions | Discharges | Deaths | Remaining in Hospital at the end of 1941 |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------|------------|--------|---|
| Scarlet Fever | 27 | 414 | 389 | 1 | 51 |
| Diphtheria | 18 | 135 | 120 | 3 | 30 |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | 17 | 17 | 1 | — |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 9 | 10 | — | 1 |
| Whooping Cough ... | 1 | 33 | 34 | — | — |
| Measles | — | 49 | 48 | — | 1 |
| Chicken Pox | — | 44 | 35 | — | 9 |
| Erysipelas | 1 | 9 | 10 | — | — |
| Dysentery | 21 | 22 | 38 | 5 | — |
| Enteritis | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | 2 | 38 | 32 | 8 | — |
| Infantile Paralysis ... | 1 | 2 | 3 | — | — |
| Encephalitis | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Tonsillitis | — | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | 11 | 12 | — | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... | 1 | 8 | 8 | — | 1 |
| Parotitis | — | 4 | 4 | — | — |
| Streptococcal Septicaemia | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Pemphigus Neonatorum | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Unclassified | 2 | 27 | 27 | 2 | — |
| Total..... | 78 | 829 | 794 | 20 | 93 |

Return showing the Total Number of Patients received during the year from each District.

Return Showing by Months the Number of Admissions.

SCARLET FEVER.
Seasonal Prevalence of Scarlet Fever (as shown by the admissions) in the Districts served by the Hospital.

| | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December | Total | |
|-------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|-------|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Residents | 9 | 15 | 24 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 15 | 20 | 23 | 153 | 8 |
| Evacuees | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | 3 | — | — | — | 8 | — | — | 47 |
| Residents | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Evacuees | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 70 |
| Residents | — | — | 6 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 7 |
| Evacuees | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 22 |
| Residents | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | 4 | — | — | 3 |
| Evacuees | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 41 |
| Residents | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Evacuees | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5 |
| Residents | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 19 |
| Evacuees | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Residents | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Evacuees | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Residents | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Evacuees | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| Residents | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Evacuees | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Residents | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 52 |
| Evacuees | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 390 |
| TOTALS..... | 11 | 25 | 29 | 19 | 18 | 20 | 18 | 24 | 47 | 55 | 72 | 52 | — | — |

DIPHTHERIA.

Seasonal Prevalence of Diphtheria (as shown by the admissions) in the Districts served by the Hospital.

Number of Deaths and the Districts from whence the patients came.

| DISTRICT. | Toxic Scarlet Fever. | Toxic S. Fever. | Toxic S. Fever and Peritonitis. | Toxic S. Fever and Abscess. | Diphtheria. | Meningococcal Meningitis. | Tuberculous Meningitis. | Dysentery. | Dysentery and Senile Degeneration. | Enteritis and Senile Degeneration. | Intracranial Hemorrhage due to Delayed Delivery (infts.) | TOTAL |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burnley C.B. | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Nelson M.B. | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Colne M.B. | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Brierfield U.D.C. | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Burnley R.D.C. | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Army | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Total | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 20 |

Notifications in the Areas of the Constituent Authorities and the numbers isolated in Hospital.

| | Scarlet Fever. | | Diphtheria. | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Total Notified | Total Isolated | Total Notified | Total Isolated |
| Burnley County Borough | 227 | 161 | 60 | 42 |
| Nelson Borough | 105 | 49 | 19 | 16 |
| Colne Borough | 107 | 77 | 16 | 15 |
| Burnley Rural District | 47 | 25 | 11 | 10 |
| Brierfield Urban District | 60 | 45 | 1 | 1 |
| Padigham Urban District | 44 | 20 | 4 | 3 |
| Barrowford Urban District | 16 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Trawden Urban District | 7 | 2 | 7 | 7 |

CROWN POINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

No cases of smallpox occurred in the areas served by the Joint Hospital Board during 1941, and twelve years have now elapsed since smallpox patients were last treated in this hospital.

This hospital continues to serve a very useful purpose as a convalescent hospital for the open-air treatment of delicate children from Burnley County Borough. It is staffed with two nurses, and two maids from the Joint Hospital Board staff in Marsden Road Infectious Diseases Hospital, in addition to the resident caretaker and his wife, who acts as hospital cook. A teacher is provided by the Burnley Corporation.

The maintenance charge per child which is paid by the Burnley Corporation to the Joint Hospital Board was increased as from 1st April, 1941, from £1 7s. 0d. to £1 10s. 0d. per week.

Two wards are used as dormitories, one for each sex, with fifteen beds in each; the third is used as a dining room and the fourth as a class room.

No infectious disease occurred amongst the children while in the Hospital.

The following are particulars of the delicate children from Burnley who have been under treatment during 1941:—

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number under treatment on 1st January, 1941 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Number of children admitted during 1941 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Number of children discharged during 1941 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Number under treatment on 31st December, 1941 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |

The following are the conditions from which the 30 children, who were discharged, suffered:—

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Non-tuberculous Respiratory Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Non-infectious Tuberculous Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Malnutrition, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| | | | | | | | — |
| | | | | | | | 30 |
| | | | | | | | — |



MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

WHITEHALL,

LONDON S.W.1



If undelivered, return to
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
St. James' Street, Burnley.